

Colchester Archaeological Trust



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**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester,
CO3 3LE: August 2023-January 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/07f
ECC code: ECC4833**

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**commissioned by Andrew Robson, Barker Associates
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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Geological and archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	3
6	Finds	13
7	Conclusion	17
8	Acknowledgements	18
9	References	18
10	Abbreviations and glossary	20
11	Contents of the archive	20
12	Archive deposition	21
Appendix 1 Context information		21
Figures		after p21
EHER summary		
CAT WSI		
OASIS summary sheet		

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Completed modular building, view south-west.

Photograph 1	Working shot of excavation of boreholes, view east.	3
Photograph 2	Completed borehole in plan, view south-east.	3
Photograph 3	Working shot of building footprint, view north-east.	4
Photograph 4	Oblique view of F1, view south-west.	4
Photograph 5	F2 in plan, view north.	5
Photograph 6	F3 in plan, view south-west.	5
Photograph 7	F4 in plan, view north-west.	6
Photograph 8	Working shot of service trench looking towards footprint, view south-east.	7
Photograph 9	Working shot of service trench, view west. The concrete surface in the background is the beginning of L5.	7
Photograph 10	Working shot of service trench at the west end, view south-east.	8
Photograph 11	General shot of L4 and L5, view north-east.	8
Photograph 12	F5 in plan, view south-west.	9
Photograph 13	Oblique shot of F6, view north-west.	9
Photograph 14	F7 in plan, view south.	10
Photograph 15	F8 in plan, unlabelled, view south.	10
Photograph 16	A completed post-hole, view east.	11
Photograph 17	A completed post-hole in plan.	11
Photograph 18	Completed section of fencing, view north.	12
Photograph 19	Working shot of fence posts, view east.	12
Photograph 20	The segment of a Samian Drag. 24/25 cup with illegible makers stamp.	13
Table 1	Summary of the pottery and CBM.	13
Table 2	Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. *NRFRC.	14
Table 3	Details on the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery.	14
Table 4	Late Iron Age-Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.	14
Table 5	Quantities of Late Iron Age-Roman pottery from specific contexts.	15
Table 6	Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.	15
Table 7	Details on the post-Roman pottery.	15
Table 8	Quantities of post-Roman pottery from specific contexts.	15
Table 9	Building material by period and type.	15

Table 10	Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.	16
Table 11	Approximate dates for the individual contexts.	16
Table 12	Summary of animal bone, listed by context.	16
Table 13	Clay tobacco pipe, iron and unworked stone, listed by context.	17
Figure 1	Site location. Scheduled Monument area highlighted in red. Site location within red box.	
Figure 2	Monitoring results of main footprint. Modern services in grey.	
Figure 3	Monitoring results of service trench. Modern services in grey.	
Figure 4	Previous archaeological investigations at St Helena's School. This monitoring seen in red.	
Figure 5	Representative sections.	

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex ahead of the construction of a new modular school building, fencing and associated groundworks. The site is within the Late Iron Age/Early Roman oppidum of *Camulodunum*, specifically in the north of the trading depot and quayside, Sheepen. The school grounds also straddle a Scheduled Monument zone within which are the remains of two Romano-Celtic temples. Although most of the work conducted lay outside of the Scheduled Monument zone, several likely Roman features, including a possible metallised surface, were noted during this monitoring. Two undated features and a post-medieval/modern pit were also encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at St Helena School, Colchester, Essex between 18th August 2023 and 24th January 2024. The work was commissioned by Andrew Robertson of Barker Associates on behalf of The Sigma Trust, and took place during groundworks for the construction of a new modular school building, a new 2m high fence and associated groundworks.

In response to consultation with Colchester City Council Planning Services (CCCPS), the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor Dr Richard Hoggett advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring*, written by Dr Richard Hoggett (CCCPS 2023) and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CCCPS (CAT 2023a).

In addition to the project Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2023b).

3 Geological and archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within *Camulodunum* – the nationally-important Late Iron Age and Roman fortress, whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester. *Camulodunum* had two principal centres: one at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible home of Cunobelin) and the other at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is located in the north of Sheepen, and the school grounds straddle Sheepen's Scheduled Ancient Monument zone (SM EX 46, HA 1002173). The proposed building is located outside of the scheduled zone.

From 2007 to 2009, CAT carried out several excavations in advance of construction at the nearby Colchester Institute site. This was the third major archaeological project at Sheepen, the

first being the excavations overseen by Hawkes and Hull during the 1930s (1947) and the second that conducted by Dunnett in 1970 (Niblett 1985). The 2007-2009 site lay adjacent to that excavated in 1970, and coincided with an area previously trenched by Hawkes and Hull.

The foundation date for Sheepen is a matter of some debate. Contrary to the conclusions of previous work here, and based primarily on the date of Dressel amphoras, it appears that occupation at the site commenced no later than 50/30BC. This early phase is represented by a boundary ditch, a few pits, and a small amount of apparently ritual activity. The next phase of activity, dated to Augustan and Tiberian (pre-conquest) eras, was marked by a significant increase in activity at the site, indicated by a large ditch, many cut features, and working hollows. Some features were undoubtedly utilised for ritual purposes, notably an inverted spear deposited beneath a stone pad. The major phase of activity, however, occurred during the Claudian period, and coincided with the Roman invasion of AD 43. A gravel road was constructed at the site, and was ultimately connected with the roads leading from the Balcerne Gate. Beside the road were large square pits which were probably used to store products in transit through Sheepen. A large number of other cut features dating to this phase of activity have also been recorded at the site, including some with an apparently ritual function.

Mirroring the results of previous work here, there was no marked increase of activity in the wake of the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60-61. A coin of Hadrian recovered from the roadside ditch evidences that the thoroughfare was maintained until at least the mid 2nd century, and a group of 3rd-century inhumations located along its route indicates that it remained in use until this time at least.

Significant finds recovered during this excavation were dominated by imports, including groups of amphora, Samian and Gallo-Belgic wares, and Roman glass. Twenty coins of Cunobelin were also recovered, as well as fragments of ceramic coin-flan mould employed in the coin manufacturing process (CAT Report 1149).

St Helena School also coincides with the location of two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 and 3) and associated buildings (discovered and excavated in 1935 when the school was first built, and prior to the construction of the new Colchester bypass – now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). The remains of Temple 2 lie under the northern edge of the main school building, and the precinct wall enclosed a block of land now occupied by the core school buildings. The remains of a much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lie on the boundary between the northern edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance (Hull 1958, p224-34; Crummy 1980).

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains. Most significantly, excavations in 2014 (CAT Report 825) exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possible 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins. Notable finds from other archaeological investigations include a residual Roman spearhead (CAT Report 1231) along with quantities of Roman pottery and CBM. For further information on CAT's work at St Helena School, see CAT Reports 188, 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544, 699, 716, 816, 835, 905, 916, 947, 1001 and 1471.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial River Terrace Deposits 2 (sand and gravels).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Unless otherwise stated, all groundworks were carried out under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Some works were carried out by hand, some machined. A full context list can be found as Appendix 1.

Boreholes (Aug 2023)

Four boreholes were dug in the four corners of the footprint of the proposed modular building, while the concrete pad of the former bike shed was still present. All four were 10cm², and the cores recovered were between 1.4-1.5m deep. Concrete (L7, c 0.15m thick), covered modern crush (L6, c 0.24m thick) and topsoil (L1, 1-1.2m thick). Natural (L3, from c 1.4m bcgl (below current ground level)) lay under the topsoil. Modern crush (L6) was only noted in boreholes 3 and 4.



Photograph 1 Working shot of excavation of boreholes, view east.



Photograph 2 Completed borehole in plan, view south-east.

Main footprint (Nov 2023)

An area measuring 104m² was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.8m following the removal of L7 and L6 (totalling a depth 1-1.2m from modern ground level). Three horizons were observed during monitoring; topsoil (L1, 0.5m thick), sealing subsoil (L2, c 0.2m thick). Covered by this was a sandy-silty natural (L3, from c 0.7m bcgl). Area reduction went through 0.1m of L3.

Four features were encountered. Three sub-circular pits (F1-F3) were noted at the east end of the footprint. Pit F1 was 1.1 x 0.8m, F2 was a large pit at least 2.8 x 2.4m, extending beyond the LOE (limit of excavation), and F3 was approximately 0.8 x 0.8m. The fourth feature, F4, was a rectangular feature with rounded edges and a dark fill at the west end of the footprint, and may be a modern test pit. It measured 1.9 x 1.9m. Pottery, CBM and animal bone was recovered from the surfaces of F1, F2 and F4. None were excavated as the required depth had been reached.



Photograph 3 Working shot of building footprint, view north-east.



Photograph 4 Oblique view of F1, view south-west.



Photograph 5 F2 in plan, view north



Photograph 6 F3 in plan, view south-west.



Photograph 7 F4 in plan, view north-west.

Service trench (Nov 2023)

A service trench running from the building footprint to the main school building measured approximately 75m in length. The trench was 0.4m wide and between 0.6-0.9m deep. Five horizons were noted, similar to the main footprint. Topsoil (L1, c 0.3m thick) covered makeup (L4, c 0.3m thick), a layer that may be the same as L2. Makeup L4 sealed a sandy-silty natural (L3, from c 0.6m bcgl). Area reduction went through 0.1m of L3. Natural was not reached at the last 4.5m of the north-west end of the trench as only modern layers were noted. A concrete and modern yellow sand surface (L5, 0.4m thick) covered modern makeup (L4, at least 0.4m thick). L5 is interpreted as the beginning of the car park surface, so was only noted at the west end of the trench (Photograph 9).

Four features were present. A north-east/south-west orientated ditch, F5, was located mid-trench, underneath the pavement. It was 0.7m wide, and left unexcavated. It was at least 0.4m deep, as noted in the section of the trench. CBM was recovered from the surface. F6 was a pit-like feature, or ditch terminus, noted just west of F5. It was c 0.7m wide, and only a semi-circle shape was exposed. It was left unexcavated, but is at least 0.2m deep, as noted in the section of the trench. Animal bone was recovered from the surface. F7 is another north-east/south-west orientated ditch, almost 5m west of F5. It was approximately 1.55m wide. It was left unexcavated, and no finds were recovered from the surface. F8 was likely a metallated surface c 3.5m west of F7. It was c 1.1m wide and roughly orientated north/south. It consisted of a compacted gravel layer. It was not excavated, and no finds were recovered. Significant quantities of pottery, CBM, worked stone and animal bone were recovered from the spoil of the service trench. Although unstratified, it is likely these originated from L2/L4.

The service trench did not impact on the precinct wall, and was instead positioned to go through a robbed out section of the wall discovered during a previous CAT investigation (CAT Report 905).



Photograph 8 Working shot of service trench looking towards footprint, view south-east.



Photograph 9 Working shot of service trench, view west.
The concrete surface in the background is the beginning of L5.



Photograph 10 Working shot of service trench at the west end, view south-east.



Photograph 11 General shot of L4 and L5, view north-east.



Photograph 12 F5 in plan, view south-west.



Photograph 13 Oblique shot of F6, view north-west.



Photograph 14 F7 in plan, view south.



Photograph 15 F8 in plan, unlabelled, view south.

Fence post-holes (Jan 2024)

Nine fence post-holes were hand dug and monitored in January 2024, totalling approximately 30m of fencing. A further c 28m of fencing was hand-dug and only impacted on modern tarmac and concrete. The post holes were 0.2 x 0.2m and between 0.50-0.6m deep. Topsoil (L1, c 0.40m thick) covering subsoil (L2, c 0.2m thick) was noted only. No archaeological remains were encountered.



Photograph 16 A completed post-hole, view east.



Photograph 17 A completed post-hole in plan.



Photograph 18 Completed section of fencing, view north.



Photograph 19 Working shot of fence posts, view east.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 37 sherds with a weight of 1.8kg and estimated vessel equivalent (henceforth EVE) of 0.68 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 36g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	37	859	23	0.68
CBM	12	921	77	-
All	49	1,780	36	0.68

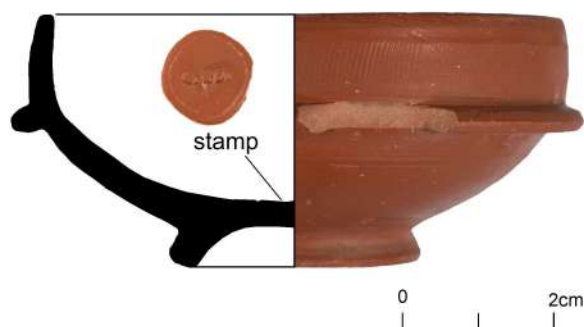
Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Late Iron Age-Roman Pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) supplemented with fabric groups from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection, henceforth NRFRC (Tomber & Dore 1998) (Table 2). The Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery fabrics are those used to study the material from the Stanway (Benfield 2007) and Colchester 'Institute' (Loughton forthcoming) assemblages. Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE.

There was a small-sized assemblage of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery at 33 sherds with a weight of 816g and EVE of 0.68 (Tables 3-4). The mean sherd weight is 25g. This material was recovered from three features while a large proportion was unstratified (finds no. 7) (Table 5). This material dates from the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period and there is an absence of any 2nd century AD pottery, such as black-burnished wares (fabrics GA, GB, KX), Colchester colour-coated pottery (fabrics CB, CZ) and Lezoux samian (fabrics BACG, BXCG).

Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery included an unidentifiable Romanising coarseware (fabric RCW) vessel (EVE:0.06), a sherd of north Gaulish white ware pottery (fabric NOG WH3) and a sherd from a Lyon amphora (fabric LYON). There is also a Cam 243-244/246 bowl (EVE:0.10) in a sandy oxidised 'legionary type ware' (fabric DJ S) dating to the early Roman period. Other noteworthy material included a large part of an unworn La Graufesenque Drag. 24/25 cup (EVE:0.43), dating to AD 43-70, with an illegible stamp and a drying crack (Photograph 20).



Photograph 20 The segment of a Samian Drag. 24/25 cup with illegible makers stamp.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BASG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) plain samian	AD 43-110
BXSG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) decorated samian	AD 43-110
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
DJ (S)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (sandy)	Roman
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	Late Iron Age-Roman
HZ (BSW)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares with black surface	Late Iron Age-Roman
LYON	Lyon amphorae (A21/L555, Dr.2-4, Dr.9, etc.)	20 BC-AD 120
NOG WH3	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Sandy) White ware 3	20 BC-AD 69
RCW	Romanising Coarse ware (general)	Late Iron Age-Early Roman
TZ (I)	Mortaria continental import	AD 43-400

Table 2 Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded. *NRFRC.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BASG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) plain samian	1	30	30	0.43
BXSG	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) decorated samian	1	4	4	0.00
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	15	267	18	0.00
DJ (S)	Coarse oxidised and related wares (sandy)	3	49	16	0.10
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	1	5	5	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares	5	88	18	0.00
HZ (BSW)	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered wares with black surface	2	168	84	0.09
LYON	Lyon amphorae (A21/L555, Dr.2-4, Dr.9, etc.)	2	151	76	0.00
NOG WH3	North Gaulish (Gallo-Belgic Sandy) White ware 3	1	5	5	0.00
RCW	Romanising Coarse ware (general)	1	8	8	0.06
TZ (I)	Mortaria continental import	1	41	41	0.00
Total		33	816	25	0.68

Table 3 Details on the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery.

Fabric group	Form	EVE
BASG	All	0.43
	DRAG 24/25	0.43
DJ (S)	All	0.10
	CAM 243-244/246	0.10
HZ (BSW)	All	0.09
	CAM 270B	0.09
RCW	All	0.06
	?	0.06
		0.68

Table 4 Late Iron Age-Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	Pit	5	88	18	0.00
F2	Pit	11	354	32	0.00
F4	?Pit	1	7	7	0.00
US	Unstratified	16	367	23	0.68
Total		33	816	25	0.68

Table 5 Quantities of Late Iron Age-Roman pottery from specific contexts.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 6). There is a small quantity of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery (Table 7), most of which came from F4 while a sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48d) was unstratified (Table 8).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21	Colchester-type ware	1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	1500-1800/1900
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenware	1800-2000

Table 6 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F21	Colchester-type ware	1	13	13	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	2	26	13	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenware	1	4	4	0.00
Total		4	43	11	0.00

Table 7 Details on the post-Roman pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F4	?Pit	3	39	13	0.00
U/S	Unstratified	1	4	4	0.00
Total		4	43	11	0.00

Table 8 Quantities of post-Roman pottery from specific contexts.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a small assemblage of CBM at 12 fragments weighing 921g with a mean sherd weight of 77g (Table 9). This material was recovered from F4 and F5 with a small quantity of unstratified material (Table 10). CBM consists of a variety of Roman (RB, RT), Medieval (PT) and post-medieval/modern material (BR).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Roman				
RB	Roman brick	3	800	267
RT	Roman tegulae	1	23	23
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	2	16	8
TESS		2	37	19
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	1	31	31
BR	Brick	2	9	5
Undated				
	Mortar	1	5	5
Total		12	921	77

Table 9 Building material by period and type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F4	?Pit	4	144	36
F5	Ditch	2	384	192
U/S	Unstratified	6	393	66
Total		12	921	77

Table 10 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

Conclusion

Table 11 summarises the dating evidence for the features and layer which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Three of the features (F1, F2, F5) are probably Roman while one is post-medieval (F4). None of this material was retained except for the stamped Drag. 24/25 cup.

Context	Description	LIA-Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F1	Pit	HZ	-	-	Roman
F2	Pit	LYON, DJ, DJ (S)	-	-	Roman
F4	?Pit	DJ	F21, F40	RB, RBT, BR	Post-medieval?
F5	Ditch	-	-	RB, RBT	Roman
U/S	Unstratified	BASG (DRAG 24/25), BXSG (DRAG 29), DJ, DJ (S) (CAM 243-244/246), GX, HZ (BSW) (CAM 270B), NOG WH3, RCW, TZ (I)	F48D	RB, RT, TESS, PT	Modern

Table 11 Approximate dates for the individual contexts.

6.2 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

Monitoring and recording produced 24 pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 0.326kg from two pits, one of post-medieval date (F4) and the other undated (F6). A further 24 pieces of unstratified animal bone was also recovered. In general the condition of the bone was poor to fair with irregular patches of dark speckling being noted on the surface of much of the material. The majority of the bone was produced by the post-medieval pit (F4, 22 pieces) where cattle, sheep or goat (no distinction being possible between the two species) and the wild species of hare were represented in the small assemblage. The undated pit (F6) produced two fragments from a single pelvis. Though in poor condition and lacking in clear diagnostic features it is likely that these are of a juvenile pig. No cut or chop marks associated with butchery or working were noted.

Context	Finds no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F4	4	1	4	Lepus (Hare)	Tibia, near complete but somewhat abraded. Distal metaphysis is unfused. Patches of dark discolouration on surface.
		2	12	Ovis/capra (Sheep/goat)	(1) Distal tibia fragment. Metaphysis is unfused (less than 1.25 – 1.66 years in age). (1) Distal radius fragment. Metaphysis unfused (Less than 3.5 years in age).
		1	4	Bos (Cattle)	Horn core fragment?
		3	14	Cattle or horse sized mammal	Diaphysis and scapula fragments.
		4	16	Sheep or goat sized mammal	Diaphysis and rib fragments. Possible light dog gnawing noted on one piece.
		11	10	Unidentified	Diaphysis and other undiagnostic fragments.
F6	8	2	30	Sus? (Pig)	Pelvic fragments including part of the right ilium and ischium. Probably juvenile pig? Condition is poor with a dark irregular staining on the surface of the bone.

Unstratified	7	24	236	Cattle or horse and sheep or goat sized mammal	Mainly rib fragments but includes a thoracic vertebrae and cattle metapodial and radius pieces.
Total	19	48	326		

Table 12 Summary of animal bone, listed by context.

6.3 Flint

by Tabitha Lawrence

Two unstratified flints were recovered from spoil (finds no. 7), likely from the subsoil (L2/L4). Both flints are dark grey/brown flint, with one gradually patinated on its surface. The patinated flake exhibits edge-damage which is consistent with its residuality. It has a small bulb of percussion and is thin, both attributes suggesting it may have been knapped with soft-hammer percussion. The second piece is potentially a blade however it is extremely damaged with edge-damage along all edges and breaks at both the distal and proximal ends. Given the relatively poor condition of both pieces and lack of chronologically diagnostic attributes, both pieces cannot be closely dated.

6.4 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of clay tobacco pipe, iron and unworked stone were recovered during groundworks. A small fragment of iron, possibly part of a nail, and a piece of septaria were recovered from F2. A fragment from the stem of a clay tobacco pipe and an iron nail came from L4. Recovered as unstratified finds were another fragment of clay pipe stem and two fragments of sandstone. All of the finds are recorded in the table below and have been discarded.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F2	3	Iron: Small fragment of iron, possibly part of a nail, 6.6g. Stone: Small fragment of septaria, 173.4g.
L4	5	Clay tobacco pipe: Fragment of stem, 6.3g, post-medieval. Iron: Iron nail, 36.1g.
U/S	7	Clay tobacco pipe: Fragment of stem, 3.4g, post-medieval. Stone: Two fragments of sandstone, probably used as building stone but not worked, 2kg.

Table 13 Clay tobacco pipe, iron and unworked stone, listed by context.

7 Conclusion (Figs 4-5)

Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School revealed three pits, a ditch and a metalled or gravel surface were likely from the Roman period, as well as a possible post-medieval/modern test-pit, and an undated pit and ditch. F4, the possible test-pit, is likely modern but does not appear to be related to any CAT archaeological investigations. The probable Roman features are unsurprising as similar have been found during previous archaeological investigations, and some may align with features found in the 2006 excavation (CAT Report 384). These past features and finds are likely pre-2nd century which is also consistent with those found during this monitoring. Gravel surfaces have been noted inside and outside of the temple precinct (CAT Report 905). The possible metalled surface (F8) seen here is unlikely to directly be related to the Temples, but may still be evidence of a road or track. Only modern layers were encountered in the service trench in the car park and area closest to the main school buildings. It is likely these modern interventions have impacted on any archaeological remains that may have been there.

The quantity of finds recovered from unstratified contexts is likely to have been disturbed by modern developments at the school since its construction in the 1930s. The lack of context limits our knowledge and interpretation, but still contributes to evidence of Roman activity in the area. The Samian cup fragment is especially significant, reinforcing the fact that the site is within an important trading depot of *Camulodunum*, Sheepen.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Robertson (Barker Associates) and The Sigma Trust for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman and carried out by M Beale, B Holloway and B Rae-Quinn. Figures were prepared by M Beale, E Holloway and S Veasey. The project was monitored for CCCPS by Dr Richard Hoggett.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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|--------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| CAT Report 716 | 2013 | <i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2013</i> , by B Holloway. |
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CAT Report 916	2016	<i>Archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-September 2015</i> . by L Pooley.
CAT Report 947	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School Tennis Courts, Colchester, Essex: April 2016</i> . by P Parmenter.
CAT Report 1149	forthcoming	<i>Digging at the heart of Camulodunum: Excavations at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, 2007-09</i> , by H Brooks.
CAT Report 1231	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: February 2018</i> , by L Pooley and A Tuffey.
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CIfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
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Tomber, R & Dore, J	1998	<i>The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook (MoLAS Monograph 2)</i> . Museum of London Archaeology Service.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CCCPS	Colchester City Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
rampart	an elongated bank or wall forming a defensive boundary of an enclosure
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: All finds discarded aside from the samian cup

Digital record

CAT Report 2013

CBC brief

Digital photographs

Site data (including scans of original plans/sections)

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (finds) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital record).

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Distribution list

Andrew Robertson, Barker Associates

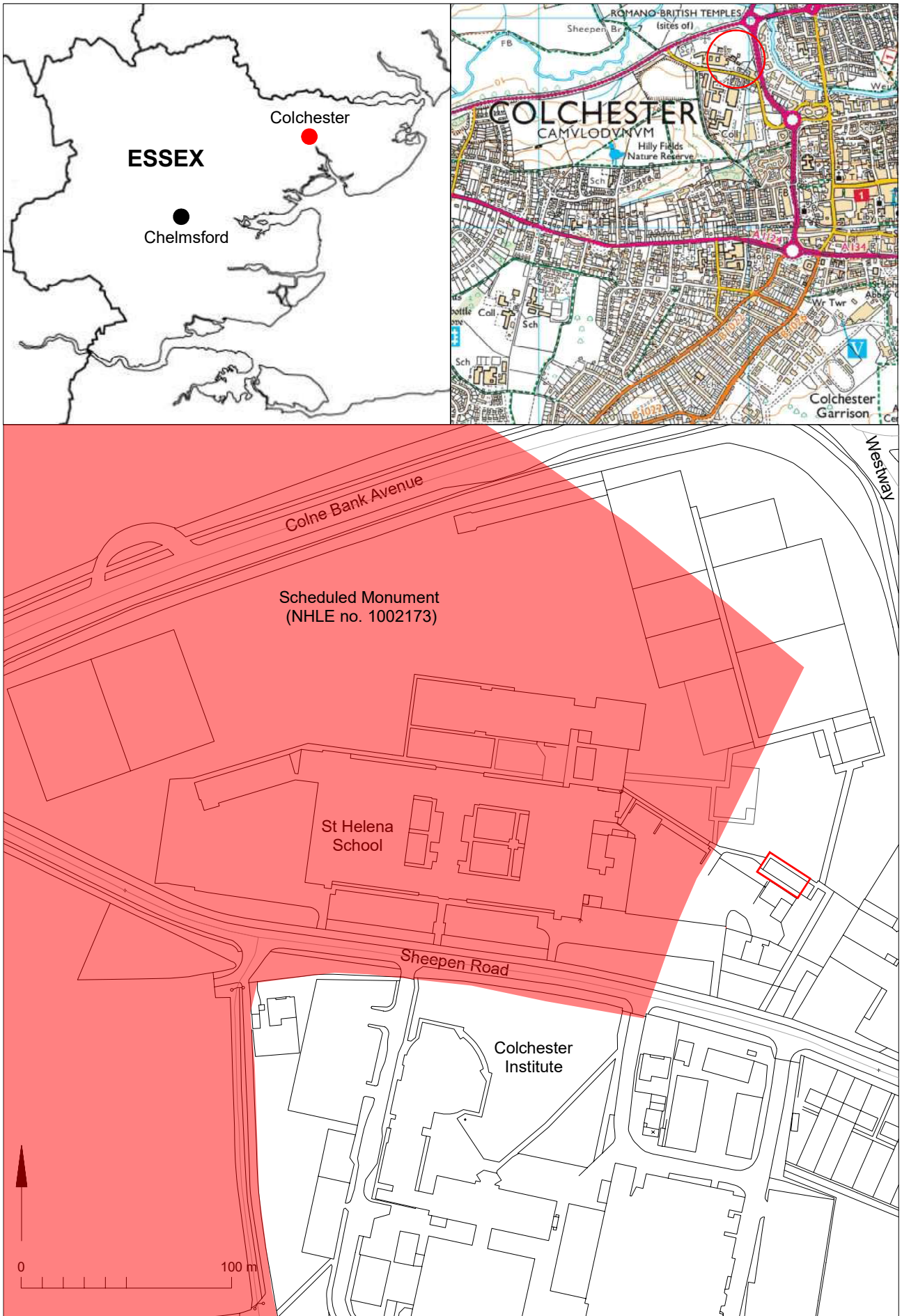
The Sigma Trust

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	firm moist dark grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 3%	Modern
L2	?7	Subsoil	firm moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 3%	Post-medieval/ modern
L3	-	Natural	firm moist light yellow/grey silt and inclusions of: stone 5%	Post-glacial
L4	5, ?7	Makeup	firm dry/moist medium grey/brown loamy silt and inclusions of: stone 5% tile/brick 2%	Post-medieval/ modern
L5	-	Car park surface	tarmac covering modern yellow sand	Modern
L6	-	Crush	pink hardcore/crush	Modern
L7	-	Concrete	concrete and modern yellow sand	Modern
F1	1	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks	Roman
F2	2, 3	Pit	firm moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt	Roman
F3	-	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silt	?Roman
F4	4	?Test-pit	medium/dark grey silty clay with brick flecks, tile flecks	Post-medieval/ modern
F5	6	Ditch	friable moist medium grey/brown silty clay	Roman
F6	8	Pit	friable moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	Undated
F7	-	Ditch	friable moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	Undated
F8	-	Metalled surface	friable moist medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 60%	?Roman



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Fig 1 Site location. Scheduled Monument area highlighted in red. Site location within red box.

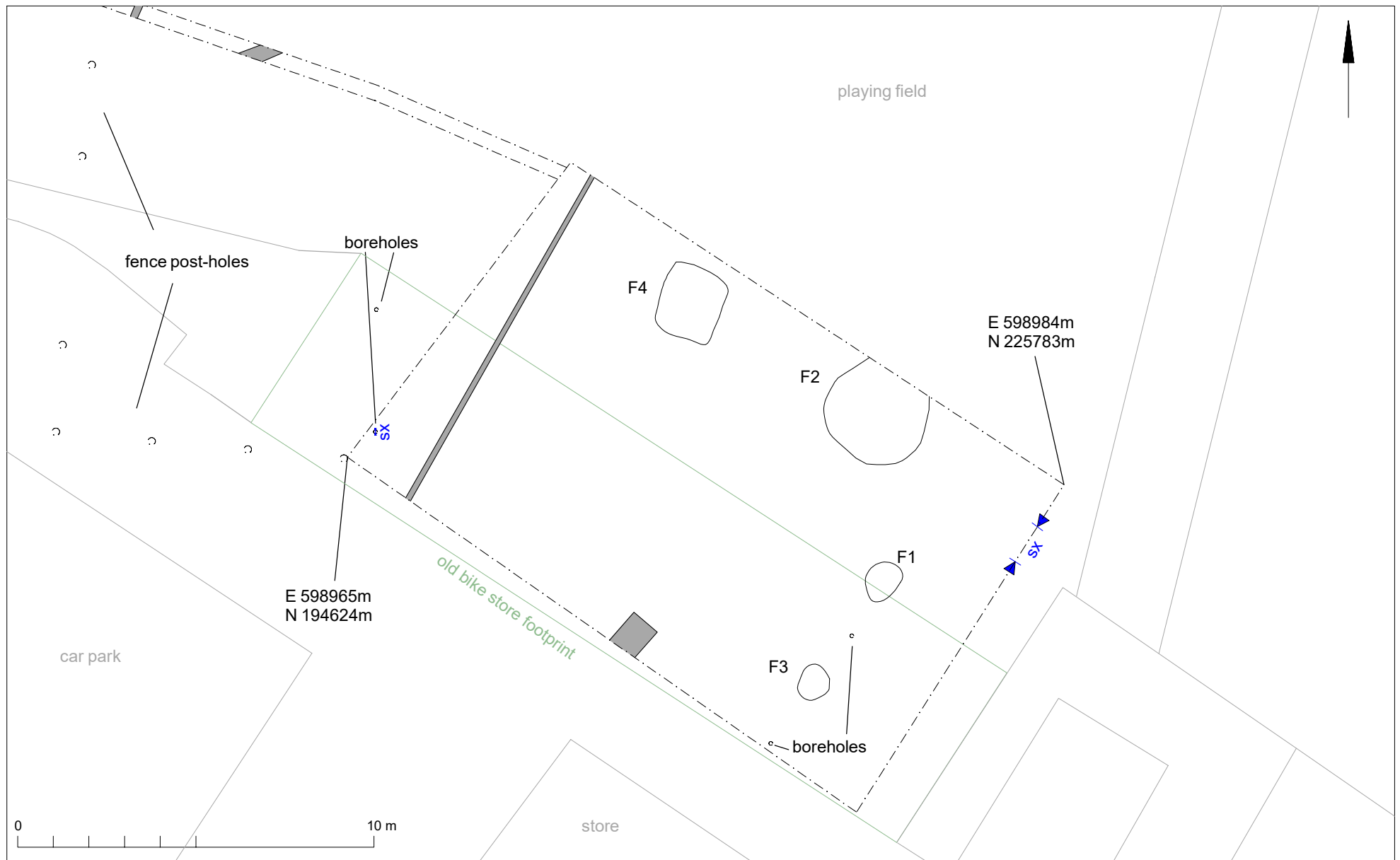


Fig 2 Monitoring results of main footprint. Modern services in grey.

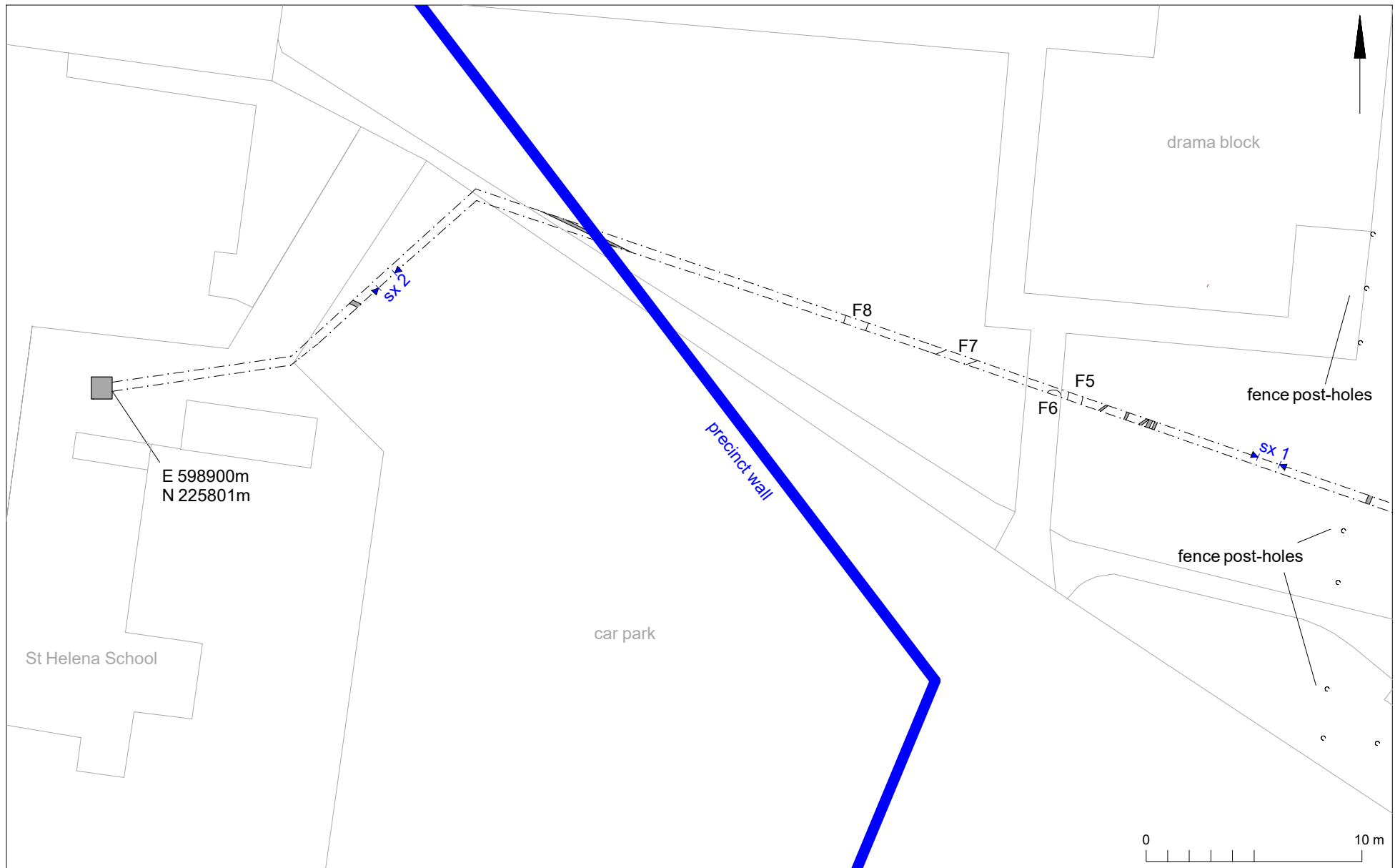


Fig 3 Monitoring results of service trench. Modern services in grey.

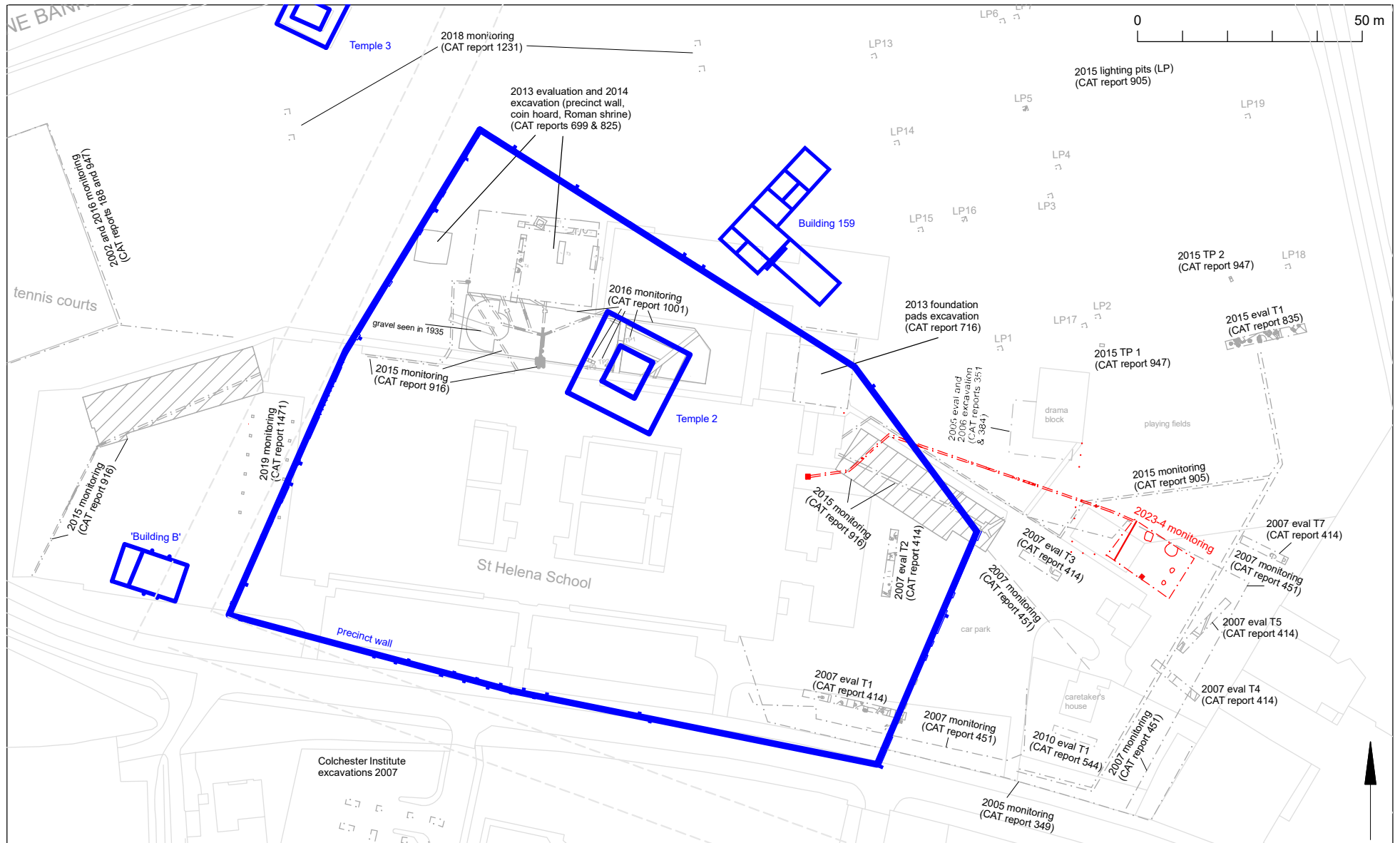


Fig 4. Previous archaeological investigations at St Helena's School. This monitoring seen in red.

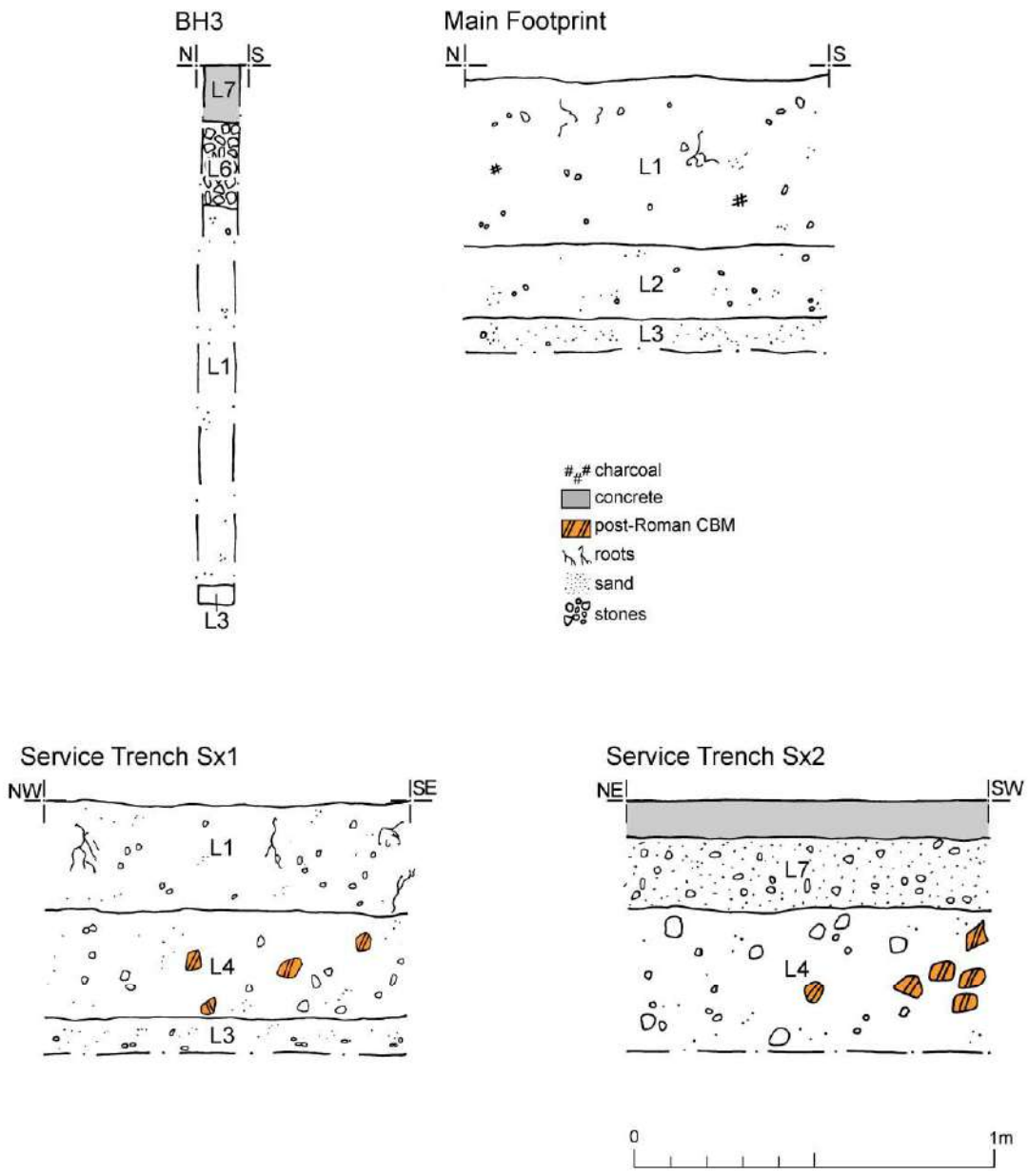


Fig 5 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: <i>St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i>	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98971 25786 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 23/07f CHER ref: ECC4833 OASIS ref: colchest3-518027
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18th August-24th January 2024	Size of area investigated: 0.019 hectares
Location of curating museums: Colchester Museum and Archaeology Data Service	Funding source: The Sigma Trust
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: ECC4378, ECC3872, ECC3751, ECC3718, ECC3645, SM EX 46, HA 1002173
Final report: CAT Report 2013	
Periods represented: Roman, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex ahead of the construction of a new modular school building, fencing and associated groundworks. The site is within the Late Iron Age/Early Roman <i>oppidum</i> of Camulodunum, specifically in the north of the trading depot and quayside, Sheepen. The school grounds also straddle a Scheduled Monument zone within which are the remains of two Romano-Celtic temples. Although most of the work conducted lay outside of the Scheduled Monument zone, several likely Roman features, including a possible metallated surface, were noted during this monitoring. Two undated features and a post-medieval/modern pit were also encountered.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 188, 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544, 699, 716, 816, 835, 905, 916, 947, 1001 and 1471.	
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: Sheepen, samian, Romano-British, precinct wall foundation, gravel surface	Significance: -
Author of summary: Megan Beale	Date of summary: February 2024

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation
for archaeological monitoring at
St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester,
CO3 3LE**

August 2023

**CAT project ref.: 2023/07f
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written scheme of investigation
for archaeological monitoring at
St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester,
CO3 3LE**

August 2023

NGR: TL 98971 25786

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 231138**

CAT project ref.: 2023/07c

**CHER code: tbc
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3-518027**

**WSI prepared by: Sarah Veasey
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: Andrew Robertson
(Barker Associates)
On behalf of: The Sigma Trust**

Prepared by:	Sarah Veasey	Junior Project Office
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	03/08/2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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sv@catuk.org

Site location and description

The development site is located at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9897125786.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of a new modular school building and the installation of a 2m high fence.

Geological and archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers, which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

St Helena School is in an area of high archaeological importance. It is within *Camulodunum* – the nationally-important late Iron Age and Roman fortress, whose 12-square-mile extent is now occupied by modern Colchester. *Camulodunum* had two principal centres: one at Gosbecks (the farmstead and possible the home of Cunobelin) and the other at Sheepen (the trading depot and quayside). St Helena School is located in the north of Sheepen, and the school grounds straddle Sheepen's Scheduled Ancient Monument zone (SM EX 46, HA 1002173). The proposed building is located outside of the scheduled zone.

From 2007 to 2009, CAT carried out several excavations in advance of construction at the nearby Colchester Institute site. This was the third major archaeological project at Sheepen, the first being the excavations overseen by Hawkes and Hull during the 1930s (1947) and the second that conducted by Dunnett in 1970 (Niblett 1985). The 2007-2009 site lay adjacent to that excavated in 1970, and coincided with an area previously trenched by Hawkes and Hull.

The foundation date for Sheepen is a matter of some debate. Contrary to the conclusions of previous work here, and based primarily on the date of Dressel amphoras, it appears that occupation at the site commenced no later than 50/30BC. This early phase is represented by a boundary ditch, a few pits, and a small amount of apparently ritual activity. The next phase of activity, dated to Augustan and Tiberian (pre-conquest) eras, was marked by a significant increase in activity at the site, indicated by a large ditch, many cut features, and working hollows. Some features were undoubtedly utilised for ritual purposes, notably an inverted spear deposited beneath a stone pad. The major phase of activity, however, occurred during the Claudian period, and coincided with the Roman invasion of 43 AD. A gravel road was constructed at the site, and was ultimately connected with the roads leading from the Balkerne Gate. Beside the road were large square pits which were probably used to store products in transit through Sheepen. A large number of other cut features dating to this phase of activity have also been recorded at the site, including some with an apparently ritual function.

Mirroring the results of previous work here, there was no marked increase of activity at the in the wake of the Boudiccan revolt of 60-61 AD. A coin of Hadrian recovered from the roadside ditch evidences that the thoroughfare was maintained until at least the mid 2nd century, and a group of 3rd-century inhumations located along its route indicates that it remained in use until this time at least.

Significant finds recovered during this excavation were dominated by imports, including groups of amphora, Samian and Gallo-Belgic wares, and Roman glass. Twenty coins of Cunobelin were also recovered, as well as fragments of ceramic coin-flan mould employed in the coin manufacturing process (CAT Report 1149).

St Helena School coincides with the location of two Romano-Celtic temples (Colchester Temples 2 and 3) and associated buildings (discovered and excavated in 1935 when the school was first built, and prior to the construction of the new Colchester bypass – now the 'Avenue of Remembrance'). The remains of Temple 2 lie under the northern edge of the main

school building, and the precinct wall enclosed a block of land now occupied by the core school buildings. The remains of a much smaller Romano-Celtic temple (Temple 3) lie on the boundary between the northern edge of the school grounds and the Avenue of Remembrance (Hull 1958, p224-34 & Crummy 1980).

Apart from the major excavation in the 1930s, there have been many small-scale archaeological projects at St Helena. These projects confirm the presence of extremely important archaeological remains at St Helena. Most significantly, excavations in 2014 (CAT Report 825) exposed the Temple 2 precinct wall, a possible shrine, and a large possible 'votive' pit containing a hoard of Roman coins.

Notable finds from other archaeological investigations include a residual Roman spearhead (CAT Report 1231) along with quantities of Roman pottery and CBM. For further information on CAT's work at St Helena School, see CAT Reports 188, 349, 351, 384, 414, 451, 544, 699, 716, 816, 835, 905, 916, 947, 1001 and 1471

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial River Terrace Deposits 2 (sand and gravels).

Planning background

A planning application (231138) was submitted to Colchester City Council in May 2023 for an *Outline application for the proposed construction of a new modular building and the installation of 2m high fencing adjacent to the building.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the CCCAA (CCC 2023).

Specifically, the monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CCCAA will be informed immediately and the CCCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CCCAA immediately.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2023)
- the Project Brief issued by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA 2023).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to the CCCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT Officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Monitoring methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:10 and 1:20 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- The range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality.
- Concentrations of macro-remains.
- Differences in remains from undated and dated features.
- Variation between different feature types and areas of site.

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or the CCCAA.

The CCCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating.

Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CCCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flint: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
osteology: (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Tom Lawrence
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Han Li (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the CCCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Results

Notification will be given to CCCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the CCCAA as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CCCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester City Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and the CCCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the CCCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CCCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CCCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

The CCCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CCCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CCCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

Events, activities and social media

In addition, the CAT website (<https://catuk.org/>) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

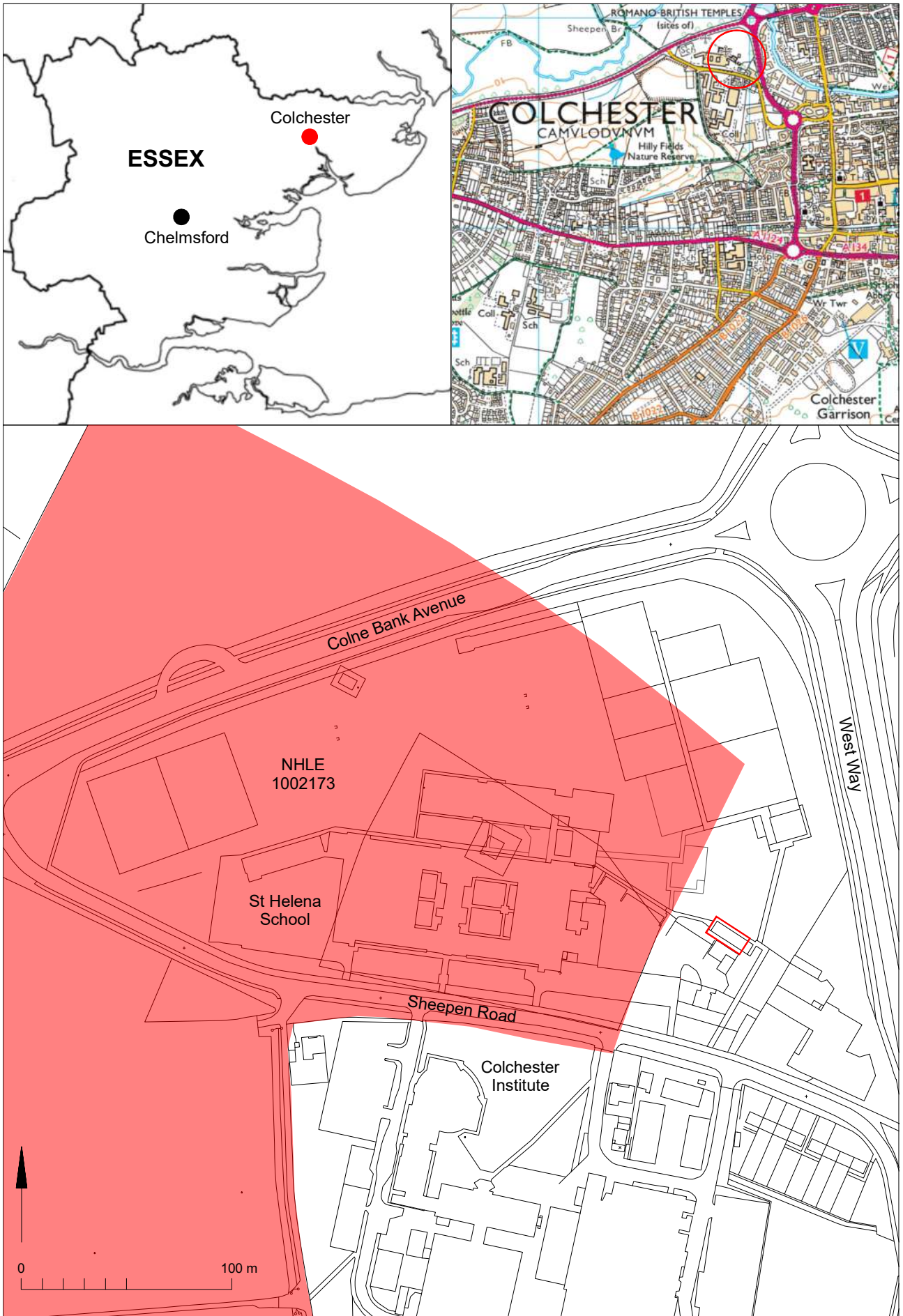
References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 188	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on the installation of tennis court floodlights at St Helena's School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i> by B Holloway
CAT Report 349	2006	<i>Watching brief report: St Helena School, Sheepen Road,</i>

CAT Report 351	2005	<i>Colchester, Essex: electricity mains supply cable trench</i> by K Orr
CAT Report 384	2006	<i>An archaeological evaluation of St Helena School drama block, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: November 2005</i> by K Orr
CAT Report 414	2007	<i>An archaeological excavation of a foundation trench at the drama block, St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: June 2006</i> by K Orr
CAT Report 451	2007	<i>An archaeological evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2007</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 544	2010	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School car-park, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: July-August 2007</i> by K Orr
CAT Report 699	2013	<i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: March 2010</i> by B Holloway and H Brooks
CAT Report 716	2013	<i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: April 2013</i> by B Holloway and H Brooks
CAT Report 816	2014	<i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: September 2013</i> by B Holloway
CAT Report 825	2015	<i>An archaeological watching brief at St Helena School: February 2015</i>
CAT Report 835	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester: October-November 2014</i>
CAT Report 905	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed pavilion at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex: May 2015</i>
CAT Report 916	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation and watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex – October 2015 - January 2016</i>
CAT Report 947	2016	<i>Archaeological watching brief at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: August-September 2015</i>
CAT Report 1149	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School Tennis Courts, Colchester, Essex: April 2016</i> by P Parmenter
CAT Report 1231	2018	<i>Digging at the heart of Camulodunum: Excavations at Colchester Institute, Sheepen Road, Colchester, 2007-09</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 1471	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: February 2018</i> by L Pooley and A Tuffey
CCC	2023	<i>Archaeological monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3LE: September 2019</i> by E Hicks
CIfA	2014a	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE</i> by Dr R Hoggett
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
Crummy, P	1980	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2022
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>'The temples of Roman Colchester', in Temples, Churches and Religion (Recent Research in Roman Britain, ed by Warwick Rodwell, BAR, British Series, 77, 242-83</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Hawkes, CFC and Hull, MR	1947	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015a	<i>Camulodunum.</i> RRCSAL 14
Historic England	2015b	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> , by S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2018	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M R	1958	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , Report 20 of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
		<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

MHCLG	2021	(EAA 24) <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Niblett, R	1985	<i>Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Sheepen</i> . CBA Research Report 57



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Fig 1 Site location.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-518027

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-518027
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE: August 2023-January 2024
Sitename	St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023/07f
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	231138
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	18-Aug-2023 - 24-Jan-2024
Location	St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, CO3 3LE NGR : TL 98971 25786 LL : 51.89509211960596, 0.8903617874877 12 Fig : 598971,225786
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Colchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	The work was commissioned by Andrew Robertson of Barker Associates on behalf of The Sigma Trust, and took place during groundworks for the construction of a new modular school building, a new 2m high fence and associated groundworks. All works were carried out according to the Brief and WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, Essex ahead of the construction of a new modular school building, fencing and associated groundworks. The site is within the Late Iron Age/Early Roman oppidum of Camulodunum, specifically in the north of the trading depot and quayside, Sheepen. The school grounds also straddle a Scheduled Monument zone within which are the remains of two Romano-Celtic temples. Although most of the work conducted lay outside of the Scheduled Monument zone, several likely Roman features, including a possible metalled surface, were noted during this monitoring. Two undated features and a post-medieval/modern pit were also encountered.
Keywords	Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation The Sigma Trust
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4833

Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection); Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;
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